



Office of Career and Technical Education

October 20, 2020

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Administrators
Nonpublic School Administrators
Charter School Administrators

FR: Amy Cox, Director Career and Technical Education

RE: Driver Traffic and Safety Education (DTSE) Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions will help to clarify information related to the updated guidance memo on

Answer: NYSED reached out to the Governor’s Office for a response to this question. While the Governor’s Office stated that DTSE programs may provide in-vehicle instruction so long as no more than one student and one instructor occupy the vehicle at the same time, current DTSE guidelines do not permit instructors to conduct one-on-one driving sessions with students. Given this restriction and the fiscal impact it would have on the districts offering DTSE programs with only one student at a time, the 24 hours of laboratory instruction cannot be offered by approved DTSE programs at this time. While vehicles serve as important learning environments for driver education, they do not share the characteristics of a typical classroom. Multiple students in such a confined space with a DTSE instructor would increase the risk for transmission of disease.

4. How will students complete the 24 hours of laboratory (in-car) instruction if it cannot be provided by the DTSE program.

Answer: The 24 hours of in-vehicle instruction may be completed under the supervision of a parent/guardian holding a valid NY State Driver’s License.

5. Will spring 2020 and fall 2020 students be required to have the same certificate issue dates? Or is it possible to issue the spring 2020 students earlier once they have completed the course?

Answer: The MV-285 Certificate of Completion may be issued once the student completes all requirements of the course. DTSE programs should contact Utica DMV to establish course end dates for spring 2020 students.

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

6. Are we allowed to have our instructor set up Zoom class sessions for the continuation of lectures that were cut short in spring 2020, and do the same to start the fall 2020 session?

Answer: Yes.

7. Will the state provide the online portion of classroom instruction or will that only be provided by high schools?

Answer: Instruction, whether in-person or remote, can only be provided by the NYSED-approved DTSE programs run by the schools.

Answer: Students may complete unfinished laboratory (in-vehicle) hours under the supervision of a parent/guardian as long as the parent/guardian attests to covering the remaining required in-vehicle instruction as outlined by the school.

14. Must all in-car driving sessions last 90 minutes?

31. What if students took the 5-hour course outside the driving school? Would those hours count towards the 24 hours required since they passed their road test?

Answer: Students must complete a full NYSED-approved DTSE program to earn their MV-285 Certificate of Completion and be eligible for the Class D license. This requires 24 hours of classroom